

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 20, 21, 23, 27 and 28 are pending in this application, claims 1, 9, 10 and 27 are newly amended and claims 6, 11, 14-16, 22, 24 and 29 are now canceled.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments and the indication of allowable subject matter raised in the final rejection. Thus, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 9-11, 14, 15, 21-24 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescing in the propriety of the rejection, Applicant herein cancels claims 11, 14, 15, 22, 24 and 29 and amends claims 1, 9, 10 and 27.

The amendments to claims 1, 9, 10 and 27 incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 6 and 16, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form containing the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

In view of the amendments to claims 1, 9, 10 and 27 and the cancellation of claims 11, 14, 15, 22, 24 and 29, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

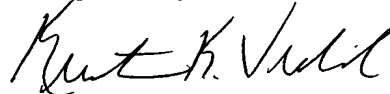
The Examiner objected to claims 11, 14 and 15 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being improperly dependent. Applicant herein cancels claims 11, 14 and 15. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner allowed claim 20.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 20, 21, 23, 27 and 28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 16, 2006

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